

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

Office of Publication: 413 Pleasant Street, Beloit, Wisconsin. Send all Editorial Matter or matter for publication to: 214 W. Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois.

An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness, and Formalism.

Volume XIII, No. 12

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1946

3 Months, \$1.00; 12 Months, \$2.00

"WHY TALLEST THOU WITH HER?"

By Evangelist Robert J. Wells
Associate Editor

Text: "And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?" (John 4:27).

One of the most interesting scenes in the life of Christ is presented in John four; there the writer tells us that Jesus "must needs go through Samaria." Journeying along he came to a city "which is called Sychar," and "being wearied with His journey," he sat down by Jacob's well, which was located there; and while He was thus resting, there came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus was alone, because His disciples had already gone away into the city to buy meat. When Jesus saw the woman approaching the well, He spoke to her saying, "Give me to drink." This was the beginning of a very earnest conversation in which Jesus told the woman about the living water that was not in the well, uncovered and exposed her terrible sin, and revealed Himself as the Messiah. After giving us the most interesting details of the Saviour's personal work with this woman, John tells of the reaction of His disciples upon their return when they saw Jesus thus seriously engaged in conversation with this wicked woman. They marvelled, and yet no man said, "What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?"

While I was reading this fourth chapter of John one day, I asked the Lord to give me something special, something different, something new from this passage I had read many, many times, and upon which I had preached on numerous occasions. As I was reading

along, it seemed that the words of this question almost leaped out of the text and hit me right between the eyes—"Why talkest thou with her?" I stopped my reading, and began to meditate on this question. It seemed that I had never no-



Dr. Robert J. Wells

ticed these words before, or at least, I had given them little or no consideration. But as I medi-

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The Unavoidable Christ

By Evangelist John Linton
Wheaton, Illinois

"The same day at evening, when the doors were shut . . . came Jesus and stood in the midst."—John 20:19.

I want you to see an upstairs room in a house in the city of Jerusalem. It is the third day after the death of Jesus of Nazareth. His disciples, trembling with fear of the Jews who had killed their Master, and might do the same with them, disturbed in mind over news of the empty grave, are secretly met in this room. They are talking in whispers lest any should discover their hiding place. The doors are safely locked and securely barred.

Suddenly they are conscious of a presence. There was no footstep on the stair; no hand was heard trying the lock; yet something, somebody is there. Then before the wondering eyes of the disciples the Lord Himself appears standing in the midst! The doors are still shut, the bars still intact and untouched, but locked doors cannot keep out the risen Son of God. Jesus passed through those doors as if they had never been, for "when the doors were shut, Jesus stood in the midst."

My message in a nutshell is this: Jesus Christ the crucified and risen Son of God still lives. And though men may try to shut and lock the door of mind and conscience against Him, nevertheless they cannot. For Jesus will come into their consciousness, will demand attention to His claims, and will compel every man to decide

either for or against Him. Though the doors are shut, Jesus will stand in the midst.

There are three propositions I will ask you to consider. First, Jesus Christ is a fact. Second, Jesus Christ is a unique fact. Third, Jesus Christ is an unavoidable fact.

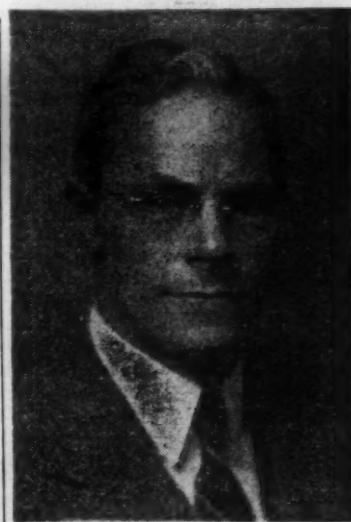
Jesus Christ Is a Fact

Jesus of Nazareth is a historic personality. Profane history tells us this, apart from the Bible. The existence of Christus in Roman history is a fact as well verified as the existence of Julius Caesar, Nero, or Constantine.

The date on the coin in your pocket, or on the nickel you put in the plate, tells you Christ is a historic fact. Do you think the world's calendar is based on the birthday of a Man who never lived? Who would say so? So far as I know, no enemy of Jesus Christ today would deny His existence. Jesus of Nazareth was born. He lived. He died. He was a historic personality. Jesus Christ is a fact.

Jesus Christ Is a Unique Fact

Christ is unique because of His claims. He claimed to be the Son of God, He claimed to be coequal with God, He claimed to be God. The Unitarians who deny this do not have a foot of ground to stand



Rev. John Linton

upon. Jesus said, "I and my Father are one." For any man to say He merely meant that He was one with His Father in aim and purpose is mere trifling. The Jews put Him to death, they said, "because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God." The Scripture says so in John 10:33.

But mark the unique element in this claim. He not only claimed to be God, He proved His claim! He sustained His claim to deity by miracles wrought sometimes before thousands of people. He told His enemies they ought to believe for the very work's sake.

Now suppose someone stood up in Chicago or Washington or London and claimed to be God, who would believe it? But if that person could recover the sick and heal the blind and raise the dead, yes, and even rise from the dead himself, the world would be ready to consider his claim. This Jesus

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BLESSINGS THROUGH TROUBLE

"And Call Upon Me in the Day of Trouble and I Will Deliver Thee and Thou Shalt Glorify Me."—Psa. 50:15.

By Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor

(This article was run in the Sword of the Lord April 16, 1937, and is repeated because it brought blessing to many.)

Trouble is the common lot of mankind. We are told that "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). The author recently spent ten days of painful sickness in bed, and even yet has not fully regained his strength. But there were rich blessings in the painful chastening, and with a prayerful heart we wish to acknowledge the wisdom and kindness of God in sometimes permitting suffering.

Suffering, trouble, sickness, disappointment and sorrow are evidently the loving provision of an all-wise God for a sinning race. As soon as Adam and Eve had sinned, before driving them out from the garden of Eden, God gave them assurance that they faced a life of sorrow and trouble. "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee" (Gen. 3:16). God multiplied sorrow for woman. In sorrow woman is to bring forth children. In sorrow woman is to be subject to her husband.

God has a holy and wise pur-

pose in the pangs and sorrows of childbirth. Through suffering God often transforms a vain, idle and selfish woman into a mother. Through suffering, through anxious weeks and months of waiting, love is born for the unseen little one. I have seen many a mother weep with a broken heart over her baby who died the day it was born. With sinful women, a part of a sinning race, with deceitful hearts and rebellious, wicked natures, suffering is necessary.

The whole problem of motherhood is one of sacrifice. In one sense I suppose that it could be said to every mother as it was said to the mother of Jesus, "A sword shall pierce through thy own soul also" (Luke 2:35). Self-sacrifice, vicarious suffering and then parting are the lot of every mother.

Just as definitely sorrow and pain is the weight and burden of every man. God said to Adam, "Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat

of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return into the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Gen. 3:17-19).

Hard labor, financial worry, the responsibility of a family, the problems of rent, food, clothes, discipline, these are intended to be the heritage of every man. God says that man is to eat his bread in sorrow from an accursed earth.

Suffering, then, is the appointed and necessary thing for a sinning race. But for the checks of suffering and hard labor and sickness, the human race would have long ago plunged headlong into Hell. It seems likely that the vigorous health and the long life of those who lived before the Flood, when Adam lived 930 years and Methuselah 969 years—that vigor and health must have been one of the reasons for the raging violence and wickedness that caused God to blot out all the race except Noah in the terrible flood. So "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). It is the plan of God.

God Permits His Choicest Saints to Suffer

And suffering is not only for sinners nor on account of sin. A

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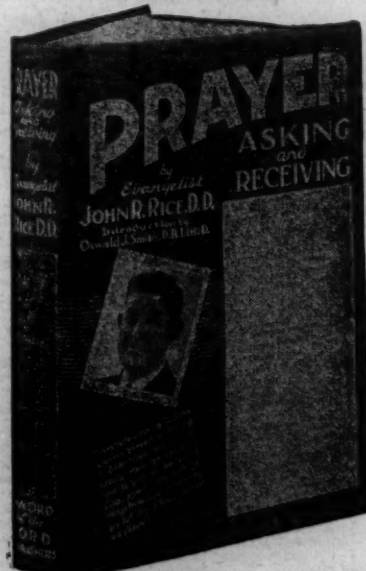
The Editor's Notes

Several things are on my heart that I want to mention to the tens of thousands of readers of The Sword of the Lord.

1. Please pray for great revival campaigns coming. March 17-31 I will be engaged in a revival campaign in the new city auditorium of Miami, Florida, in a campaign sponsored by some forty churches of the Greater Miami Baptist Association. Bill Mann has come all the way from California to help me set up and organize that campaign. We expect great blessings and covet your prayers. Then April 28-June 2 some two hundred churches of Chicago, plus Moody Bible Institute, Northern Baptist Seminary, Chicago Evangelistic Institute, Pacific Garden Mission, Chicago Christian Businessmen's Committee, Chicago Youth for Christ, and many other Christian institutions, will combine in a city-wide evangelistic campaign in the Chicago Arena. Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., will preach the first

(Continued on page 4)

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The Unavoidable Christ

(Continued from page 1)
 bid. He claimed to be God, and by His wonder-works He proved it. This is unique.

And His claims had authority behind them. He spoke as never man spoke. That does not mean He was the most eloquent man ever heard. It means that when Jesus Christ spoke, He had the authority of the Godhead behind Him. His was the most authoritative voice ever heard on this earth. His friends and enemies alike knew this. And we know it today. Here is a marvelous thing, that although nineteen hundred years have passed since He spoke, His words have not lost one iota of their authority, and when He speaks today from the Word of God, the human heart recognizes this unique authority.

How different from other teachers and moralizers. When you read the teachings of Plato or Socrates or Seneca or any other teacher of morals and ideals, you do not feel you have to decide for or against them. You do not feel you have made a great moral decision, eternal in its consequences for weal or for woe, when you decide either to accept or reject their teachings. You do not feel that Heaven or Hell depend on what you do with them. Of course not. They were mere men, good men, wise men, but men and men only. Yet no honest man can hear or read the words of Jesus Christ and intelligently comprehend His claims without being gripped by the compelling authority of them.

Moreover if a man decides to reject the claims of Christ, it takes an effort to do so. That is why some men lock and bar the door of their consciousness to keep Christ out. It makes them uncomfortable and uneasy when Christ stands within the chamber of their thoughts. But why? Other teachers do not trouble them this way. Why Christ? Because Jesus Christ is not only a fact, He is a unique fact, unique both in His claims and in the divine authority attending those claims.

That brings me to a third proposition:

Jesus Christ Is an Unavoidable Fact

There are some men, I repeat, who have barred and locked the door of their minds against Jesus Christ. They do not want to think of Him. They are not willing to acknowledge His claims and to yield Him the control of their lives. And because they feel convicted in His presence, they decide to shut out all thought of Him. So they fill their minds and their time with other things, with business, with pleasure, with a barricade of a thousand and one worldly interests so that Christ cannot get at them. But one day when they think they are secure behind their barred doors, suddenly through some experience Christ stands before them—for "when the doors were shut . . . came Jesus and stood in the midst."

The other night in a church where I was preaching there was such a man. The Spirit of God wrought mightily in conviction, but this man was unwilling to face Jesus Christ. He rose up in the middle of the sermon and walked out. What was he doing? Trying to shut Christ out.

A ministerial friend of mine went to Toronto General Hospital to visit a dying man. He said cheerfully and kindly to him, "I

just came in to have a little chat with you." The dying man answered, "All right, Mr. Brown, if you don't talk religion." What was he doing? Using his dying strength to shut Christ out.

But listen, my friends, it can't be done. Write that in your book, and let not man or devil erase it, it can't be done. You may think you have shut Jesus out, you may have every door and entrance barred against Him, but Jesus is the inescapable, the inevitable, the unavoidable Christ—for "when the doors were shut . . . came Jesus and stood in the midst."

Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence of the Lord amongst the trees of the garden, but God followed them to their hiding place, and they stood ashamed in His presence.

Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, but the ship was never built that could smuggle a man out of God's presence, and Jonah found himself face to face with God.

The Psalmist had learned the lesson of my text when he said, "Whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in sheol, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."

The poet had this thought who wrote these words,

Within thy circling power I stand,
 On every side I find thy hand.
 Awake, asleep, at home, abroad,
 I am surrounded still with God.

Sometimes Christ stands in the midst through adversity. Here is a man whose way God has prospered. He has made much money, but he has forgotten God. In love God pulls down everything about his head. I say, in love, for it is better to be poor and go to Heaven, than to be prosperous and go to Hell. Standing amid the ruins of his former prosperity, he sees how fleeting are earthly joys, and he is forced to think of God and eternity. Through adversity Christ has appeared and is standing in the midst.

Sometimes Christ enters through sickness. I knew a commercial traveler some years ago who was shutting Christ out. One day sickness laid him low. As he came to the gates of death, lo, Christ appeared and stood beside him. The man later said to me, "I have forgotten God. If God spares me, I shall serve Him." And God did. I baptized him. He became a faithful teacher in the Sunday School and an officer in the church.

Sometimes Christ enters through the death of a loved one. I knew a young married man in a former pastorate who was a stubborn unbeliever. His entire family were all saved people who prayed for him continually, but he had sternly forbidden them to speak to him about Christ. He had one only child, a sweet little girl of three. And one day God put His hand on that little life and took her to His Heavenly home. Now where our treasure is, there will our heart be also. Because this young father believed his child had gone to Heaven, he began to hope he might see her there again. He opened his heart to God and became an earnest Christian.

I seldom conduct a funeral without thinking of this text. I see men standing in the presence of death who for years have been shutting Christ out. They have banished from their minds the thought of death, of Christ, and

of eternity. Then some friend, some loved one dies, and decency compels them to attend the funeral. And oh, how often I have seen unsaved men tremble in the chamber of death listening to a funeral sermon, because standing before them was the unavoidable Christ compelling them to think.

No, my friend, unsaved, you cannot shut Jesus out of your thoughts. The door of your bed-chamber cannot keep Him out. He will stand before you in moments of silence when none else is near. You may stop your ears to the voice of the preacher, but you cannot drown the still small voice of the unavoidable Christ who speaks to your inmost soul. You may dismiss the preacher's invitation, but Jesus will walk with you down the street. He will follow you into your home. He will stand beside your bed. He will visit you in your dreams. On the morrow He will travel with you to your business. He will stand beside your bench or desk. He will show you His hands and feet, and He will call on you to decide for or against Him.

Facing Christ every man is forced to make a choice. He may not wish to make it, but the choice is inevitable, inescapable. Pilate you remember tried to escape that choice just as someone reading this has tried to escape it. He delivered Jesus and then washed his hands! He decided against Him but tried to deceive himself and others into thinking he had not done so. And, my friends, one of the greatest delusions abroad today is for a man to think it is possible to be neutral in the presence of Jesus Christ. I go to a man and I say, "Friend, will you go to Heaven when you die?" He answers, "No, I hardly think so." I say, "Will you go to Hell if you die?" He answers, "No, I don't think so." He has never wholeheartedly joined himself to Christ and God's people so he doesn't think he is just fit to go to Heaven. But he has never outwardly opposed God or God's people so he doesn't think he is bad enough to go to Hell. Oh, my friend, listen, you are bound either for one place or the other. "No man," said Christ, "can serve two masters." He said, "He that is not with me is against me." He said also, "To whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are." Every man who reads this message is either serving the world, the flesh, and the devil, or he is serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Which is it? Neutrality in the presence of Christ is impossible. A man is one thing or the other, and to think differently is a delusion. If you are for Christ, you will accept Him as your Saviour. And if you do not accept Him, you reject Him.

Dr. Mahood has pointed out that every man must do one of three things with Christ. Either compliment Him or crucify Him or accept Him.

Some compliment Him. Many infidels have complimented Jesus Christ as the best man that ever lived. But you might as well crucify Him as compliment Him. He said, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

Some crucify Him. That's what the multitude is doing today. Those who neglect Him are crucifying Him.

Others accept Him. Which will you do today? God help you to do now what you will wish you had done when you stand before Him.

And that brings me to another fact. Someone says, "I do not think your text applies to some people who have so long and so often shut Christ out that He has ceased to plead and strive with them. They do not come to church, they will not listen to preachers, they will not hear saved people

to serve the devil now, is to share the devil's destiny?"

Jesus Christ has not yet left you. You know that. You would not be reading this if He had. He is merciful and compassionate and stands ready to save you. Why not receive Him? Why not take Him now? Far better to meet Christ now as your Saviour, than to meet Him hereafter as your judge. God grant that someone through this message will turn to Christ and be saved.

Oh He is the inescapable, inevitable, unavoidable Christ. Men will find that closing their eyes in death does not get them out of God's hands. Unsaved men will not come to church, they will not go near evangelistic meetings, but there is a meeting where every unbeliever will attend, where every infidel will be present. "Every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Every man who has tried to avoid Christ, and Christians, and radio preaching, and church services, that man will stand alone before the great white throne of God. He will not escape that meeting. He will have to stay until his case is all settled. He will have to listen to God then. He will have to face Christ then. The eyes of the assembled universe will be centered upon him, the light from the throne will be turned full upon him, and when the sentence is pronounced, he will have to hear it.

And then what? Then God will do for such men what they have long wanted—God will leave them alone. They have shut the door of mind and heart against Him. Very well, God will leave them shut up in their eternal prison house. What that means no tongue can tell. A man may reject Christ here, but he is not cut off from the blessings and mercies of God. Yonder, however, in the eternal world, the sinner unsaved shall be separated, not only from God, but from God's people, from all light and mercy and truth.

Oh what will it be with no Great Physician to heal, no blood to cleanse, no God to hear a penitent sinner's cry—shut out from the Saviour who waited to save and shut in with the devil whom they served instead?

What if thine eye refuse to see,
 Thine ear of Heaven's free
 mercy fail,
 And thou a willing captive be,
 Thyself thine own dark jail?

O doom beyond the saddest guess,
 As the long years of God unroll;
 To make thy sordid sinfulness
 The prison of thy soul.

We shape ourselves the joy or fear,
 Of which the future life is
 made,
 And fill our future atmosphere
 With sunshine or with shade.

The tissue of the life to be,
 We weave with colors all our
 own.
 And in the field of destiny
 We reap as we have sown.

O, you unsaved men and women who may read this message, God be merciful to you who will not have mercy on yourselves. Do you not see that life's greatest folly is to shut Christ out of your heart? Do you not see that the sin you love will eventually destroy you? Do you not know that

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My Decision for the Unavoidable Christ

You have read Brother John Linton's sermon above. If you have not definitely accepted Christ before, will you do it now? Will you repent of your sins, trust Jesus to save you, and let us hear from you at once? I trust that you will sign the statement below, if you are accepting Christ today and then copy the statement and mail it to me, or write me a letter and tell me that you have taken Christ as your Saviour. I will tell Brother Linton and we will rejoice together and will send you a letter of counsel and comfort.

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor
 The Sword of the Lord
 214 West Wesley Street
 Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read Brother Linton's sermon, "The Unavoidable Christ." I realize I can never get away from Christ. I realize that I am a sinner and that I must trust Christ for forgiveness and salvation or be forever lost. So this very moment I say, "Yes," to Jesus Christ. Here and now I turn my heart from my sins and ask Jesus to forgive me and save me, and give me everlasting life. I accept Him as my Saviour just now. I will confess Him before men and now set out to serve Him for the rest of my life.

Signed _____

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THE SWORD OF THE LORD

Published weekly. Publication office, c/o The Sword of the Lord, 413 Pleasant St., Beloit, Wis. Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Beloit, Wis., on January 19, 1946.

EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE
 D.D., LITT. D.

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Evangelist Robert J. Wells, Th. D.
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The Twilight Hour

Mass Evangelism of Children

By Rev. Earl M. Jenson, Tacoma, Wash.

The opening hour of a four-night series of meetings had come. The workers had done all that was humanly possible to make the services known to the children of Tacoma. Nine of the city transit buses were out calling on twenty schools to pick up children and the air was electric with expectancy, but many hearts trembled for fear that the turnout might be discouraging; however, such fears were soon dissipated. The first bus arrived with over a hundred children, and so the second, and the third, and the fourth, and the fifth, until finally telephone calls came in that children were left standing before the schools because of overcrowded buses pulling away without them. And when the attendance was totaled the first evening, we had twelve hundred boys and girls out for the Twilight Hour, a children's program planned to win them to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The three succeeding nights brought out over a thousand each evening, of whom seven hundred were present for four successive evenings. Five hundred and sixty-nine of the children came into the inquiry room and were dealt with by Sunday School teachers and other personal workers, and during the four evenings two hundred boys and girls were found never to have been in Sunday School. This was the first attempt at mass evangelism of children, and God blessed abundantly. But I know that while I may state the results, you are eager to know how it was done, and that is the purpose of this short article.

Lionel B. Hunt of Vancouver, British Columbia, who by profession is a civil engineer, has had for years a passion for winning children. His first effort began in Montreal, Canada, and when he was moved to the West Coast he carried the passion with him. We had the joy of having him with us a few years ago for a campaign during which time we reached several hundred children for Christ, but the meetings did not take on such proportions as above, our top attendance at that time being a little over five hundred. However, when he returned to us we set as our goal one thousand children by the end of the fourth night. The series was preceded by a number of weeks of prayer when the workers gathered together to ask God's blessing and guidance upon them and Engineer Hunt.

Eight thousand tickets were printed and a band of fifty women were enlisted to visit each of the twenty schools and personally invite every pupil. This was done at the noon hour and after school. Passers-by wondered why one woman was able to have a band of about fifteen or twenty children around her all clamoring for tickets and asking questions about what kind of program was to be held at Tacoma Bible Church and whether they, too, would be able to have the free bus ride. Such enthusiasm spread around the whole school until principals began telephoning the church to inquire as to what was going to happen down at the Tacoma Bible Church Twilight Hour. We informed them that we had a civil engineer from Vancouver, B. C., whose hobby was children and that the man would interest them in choruses portrayed on a large silver screen in beautiful coloring. We promised, in addition, there would be Bible stories and solos and duets by children, plus a free ride from school and back to school, the expense of which was to be borne by the Tacoma Bible Church. It became the talk of the town because nothing such as this had ever been attempted before, and boys and girls were eager enough to attend Twilight Hour that they forgot their Boy Scout meetings and other inter-

ests which normally made up their lives.

In reaching boys and girls we know that something must be offered to sustain their attention, and I am sure that those reading this article will have in their minds questions regarding what success we had in so doing. At seven o'clock a large colored slide with a picture of a clock appeared on the screen and called for silence. Darkness came upon the auditorium and every child sat expectantly. Mr. Hunt, standing on the platform, called the attention of the children to the fact that they were now to learn a theme chorus. He had appropriately written a children's chorus which mentioned Tacoma and the Puget Sound area, to the tune of Brahms' lullaby, and this became the favorite of the brief series. Next came the Lord's Prayer on a beautifully colored slide and all the children were asked to bow and repeat it, with the exception of those who did not know it and these were permitted to read from the screen; immediately an atmosphere of reverence was brought in. From there he took them into several of the favorite choruses of children, with this difference, that the slides on which the choruses were written were colored very attractively with birds and flowers, so that whenever a new slide came on there would be an "ah" coming forth from the little voices all over the auditorium. In other words, Mr. Hunt had gone to great pains to make these things as attractive as possible for the little boys and girls. I might add here that we took in only those that were in the grammar school group.

Then came the Bible verse of the evening, also beautifully colored, and the children were asked to memorize it for the next evening. The following night, before it was shown on the screen, the children were asked to recite it; and it was remarkable the accuracy with which it was given. Then came an old hymn and then a quartet of boys and girls, or one lone little singer would be called to the platform to sing a verse or chorus of the hymn. The announcement was made to the children that if any other little group would care to participate on successive evenings, they should see Mr. Hunt. As you might know, he had a long waiting list from which he selected those with the best choruses to perform before the children. This created a tremendous interest on their part, so great that applause would come upon them at the conclusion of their numbers. With never a moment's delay, Mr. Hunt carried on the program to a colored Bible story, such as the story of Naaman or of Moses, which was followed up by an attractive song; and the evening concluded with a pertinent story of some little boy or girl who had found the Lord Jesus Christ. At this mo-

With the Evangelists

Reports From America's Outstanding Soul Winners

By Evangelist Robert J. Wells, Associate Editor

Evangelist Jack Shuler in Great Union Meeting

We were glad to receive a letter and newspaper clippings from Evangelist Jack Shuler telling of the great union campaign held in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Brother Shuler writes:

"The revival started out in the Main Street Methodist Church which has the largest seating capacity in the city but we outgrew that in the first week, and during the second week we moved into the high school gymnasium. The Methodists of the city underwrote the revival but Baptists and other denominations co-operated bea-

ment, the writer was asked to take the invitation and the first night we were so overwhelmed by numbers of children wishing to go into the inquiry room that fifty workers were not nearly enough. Such invitation was carried on each evening, with those having made decisions on previous evenings meeting with the pastor to talk about how to grow in the Christian life.

On the fourth night all the children were asked to turn in their tickets which bore a punch for each evening they had been in attendance and they were informed that a prize would be delivered to their homes within the next few weeks. Seven hundred of the children had attended all four of the nights and we selected story books published by the Moody Press to distribute as prizes. This made a contact with every home represented and a great opportunity was afforded our women to minister in these homes. As a result, we have a list of prospects so large that six months after we have not yet exhausted it. Children were added to the Sunday School, family altars were established and parents began to attend church who had fallen out of the habit some years before.

It is the opinion of Mr. Hunt and this writer that were such brief campaigns in child evangelism undertaken before a major campaign with adults, there would be hundreds of homes open to Christian workers out of which might be brought unsaved parents to hear the message of salvation which the children had heard and accepted a few days before. Mass evangelism among children is profitable; and while some may say that they are moved at a time of emotional stress we, nevertheless, look upon the large number of them going in and out of our Sunday Schools and living for the Lord Jesus Christ. The follow-up work may be as intense as anyone desires to make it, and the more intense the greater the prospect of lasting success.

Should anyone desire further information about the Twilight Hour, it may be had by writing to Mr. Lionel B. Hunt, 825 Twenty-second Avenue, Hollyburn, British Columbia, Canada.

utifully, and the crowd grew to 2400 before the three weeks were over.

"The total number of conversions (according to signed cards) for the revival was 860, with many consecrations evidenced beside these." Praise the Lord for this wonderful campaign! Evangelist Shuler may be addressed at 12th and Flower, Los Angeles.

Appelman Reports Continued Blessings

Evangelist Hyman J. Appelman recently wrote:

"Your prayers are being superlatively answered. God is pouring out His mighty blessings on these campaigns.

"The three weeks in Evansville, Indiana, were a landslide for Jesus. The city was stirred as never before in its history with over 500 actual conversions. Deep, tear-wet earnestness of prayer and personal work marked the meetings.

"Pray with me and for me in the Lexington, Kentucky; Buffalo, New York, and Orlando, Florida, campaigns through the Easter season."

Dr. C. E. Matthews Has Unusual Campaign

Dr. C. E. Matthews, pastor of the great Travis Avenue Baptist Church of Ft. Worth, Texas, writes of a recent campaign. He reports:

"... we had 239 additions at the First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, and its mission in eight days. It was one of the very best revivals I have ever been in in my life, and greatly stimulated my faith in this hour of terrible crisis."

Dr. Matthews is a pastor with the heart of an evangelist and we are glad for this blessed victory.

Covell Keenum Has Victorious First Year

Evangelist G. Covell Keenum tells of God's blessings in his first year in the evangelistic ministry as follows:

"We have just completed our first year as full-time evangelist. The Lord wonderfully blessed. The Lord saved 496 souls and called ten into full-time work. They are now in school preparing themselves. He used us to establish two Baptist churches. He gave us hundreds of backsliders and rededications."

Evangelist Wirth Has Good Meeting

In a recent letter Evangelist F. A. Wirth said:

"Just closed a two-week meeting in the Averyville Congregation. (Continued on page 5)

STUDY — FEAST

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"C.H.M." has long stood for the author of these "Notes." The full name is Charles H. McIntosh, a devout student of the Word, whose writings have been blessed to thousands of the world over. He belonged to that school of students of the Bible who believe in the entire inspiration and absolute infallibility of the Bible as the Word of God. He approaches a study of the Bible untrammelled by any of the modern criticism, but deeply inspired by his own firm faith. The result is these "Notes"—beyond a question the most complete study of the Books of Moses from a New Testament point of view. Six volume set **\$6.95**

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"God So Loved"

By Evangelist Rolfe Barnard
Vinita, Oklahoma

Preached on Christian Business Men's Program, WJJD, Chicago, Oct. 31, 1945. Mechanically recorded for THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."—John 3:16.

Today, let us think about this great truth that on the cross, God revealed His love for sinners. Somebody wrote that what this world needs is a fresh type of the sacrificial love of God in Christ. It needs to see it until the heart, hardened in sin, is broken before that cross. That will be done and can be done only as we continue to hold up before eternity—bound men and women the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, only as we get people to drink in the meaning of Calvary until something of the extent of the wondrous love of God for sinners dawns on their watching and waiting souls.

Midst the sounds of the quaking earth in protest, the Son of God lies. The darkened sun rebels against the death of the Creator. We listen and hear the voice of a loving God speaking in the agony of the cross, "Behold my love for thee." God intends that those who stand there and we who stand here shall join in the chorus of that verse,

"Oh, God's love, God's wondrous love,
The love of God to me;
That brought my Saviour from above
To die on Calvary's tree."

If we forget everything else, if we quit preaching everything else, if we quit believing everything else, if we quit magnifying everything else, we must keep preaching, we must keep magnifying the fact that nobody ever has gone to Hell, nobody ever will go to Hell who loved God. On the cross of Jesus Christ, God vouchsafed His love to mortal human beings, eternity bound.

God Loved Enough to Give His Son

I call to your attention now three truths. On the cross of Calvary, God showed His love in His gift, in giving His Son. He loved; therefore, He gave. Nobody has ever yet found the depth of the gift. Oh, we pull off our shoes in holy reverence as we see yonder on Calvary God Almighty showing His love to the last sinner that shall ever live, as He gives His only begotten Son to die on the cross!

And then God shows His love there on the cross. His love is revealed in the purpose of God's heart, as He turned His back on His Son and treated Him as He would treat the sin of the world. That purpose is shown in the Bible as being twofold. God gave His Son to rescue people. He does not want them to perish. In the language of the Bible, He does not want people to spend eternity away from the presence of the Lord. He does not want the un-avowed to burn in the torments of the flames of eternal Hell. Therefore, He gave His Son for the purpose of rescuing those who otherwise would perish.

God Loved People So He Would Give His Best to Save Them

Then the Bible says He gave His Son not only to rescue, but to bestow. "Oh," He said, "I will not only keep people out of Hell that believe in My Son, but I will give them eternal life." Nobody is going to get eternal life in Heaven; they must get it down here. It begins down here. And Heaven will be a prolonged age of living in the fellowship and presence of God through His blessed Son, The Lord Jesus Christ. What a wonderful verse of Scripture! How it pictures Calvary! "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

A dear woman came to a church—I was engaged in revival

services. Her boy who had been tried for having murdered his pal was in jail. The mother asked that the pastor and myself go with her down to the county seat town to see if we could not help the boy. We went, were admitted into the jail, and the mother led us back to the cell. Inside was her boy. He was guilty, they said, of murder. I saw that mother as she put her hands through the bars. As they kissed, as best they could, through the bars, the tears of love ran down that mother's cheek. She loved that boy. He was a murderer, but she loved him. She will love him forever. Nothing can change her love for him. But she could not get him out. She did not have any key to unlock that door. We talked to the sheriff and to the county attorney. They said, "Beyond a shadow of a doubt, he is guilty. There is not a thing on earth anybody can do. The law must take its course."

The day came when they took that boy and hanged him by the neck. In spite of the fact that his mother loved him, they hanged her son. His mother loved him, but her love was helpless, her love was hopeless.

But, my friends, I am so glad that God's love is not helpless. He loved sinners and He could do something about it. He loved sinners and His love was not hopeless. He did something about it. He gave His Son to provide a ransom to pay off the debt that sin had laid to my account. He fixed it, through the shed blood of the Son of God, so that the Holy Spirit can take the key and unlock the door and set the prisoner free. I am glad that God's love was not helpless. I am glad that He could give. I am glad that He could give in power and grace, could give in such a way that every human being from Adam on to the last person who shall ever draw a breath of life who puts his faith in Jesus Christ who hung on a tree for his sins, shall not perish but have everlasting life.

God Loved Sinful People

The love of God is revealed not

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only in the cross, not only in that God gave His Son, not only in that He gave His Son to rescue the perishing and to bestow eternal life upon all who believe; but oh how the love of God is revealed on the cross when you consider the people for whom He gave His Son to die. I suppose that you, that I, that those who listen, would go to extraordinary lengths to help our friends. But on the cross God was reaching out toward His enemies. What would you do for a friend? What would you do to your worst enemy? God says, "I will tell you. I'm going to show for a time and for a long eternity what I will do for my enemies." He said, "I will die for them. I will die for them!" "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son . . . (Rom. 5:8-10). God said, 'I will give My Son to die for My enemies. I will fix it so My enemies will make up with Me. I will do something to break the heart of the biggest enemy I have. I will give My Son to shed His life's blood to reconcile My enemies to Me.' Would you do that? God did. God gave His Son to shed His blood; not for His friends, but for His enemies. The greatest miracle that has ever been worked this side of the resurrection of the blessed Saviour is not the miracle of the healing of the body, as much as I believe in it, but it is the miracle of God's redeeming grace, operating from the power of the Holy Spirit as the heart, as the attitude of a rebel, an enemy against God, is changed, and that enemy comes and casts his eyes and says, "I'll never fire another shot at You, God. I'll be Your humble slave from now on through time and eternity." God said, 'My Son will die for My enemies, so My enemies will come to Me.' That is what God does. That is what God does to His enemies. God expects, God provides, God demands that sinners, enemies of His, shall behold His love yonder as His Son dies, and beholding, come with repentant hearts to say unto Him, "I surrender my all to Thee." Oh, God loves sinners! God loves sinners!

I read this illustration sometime ago. Dr. Norman McLeod,

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the Scotch preacher, told the story of a Highland mother and son. She was a widow. Taking her babe, she started across the mountains to go some ten miles to the home of a reverend. On the way a terrible snow storm suddenly fell upon the hills. Little by little, the mother's strength failed. The next day when searchers found her body, it was almost stripped of clothing. Her chilled and dying hands had wrapped her own clothing about the child, who was found in a sheltering nook, safe and tight.

Years later, the son of the minister who had conducted the mother's funeral, went to Glasgow, Scotland, to preach. Somehow he was reminded of this story he had heard his father tell. That morning, instead of preaching the sermon, he told the story of this mother's love. A few days later he was summoned to the bedside of a dying man. The man said to the preacher, "Sir, you do not know me, although I have lived in Glasgow many years. I have never attended church. The other day I happened to pass your door as the snow came down. I heard the singing, slipped in and took a back seat. There I heard the story, as you told it, of the widow and her son." Then the dying man coughed. His voice was choking, his eyes were filling. "Sir, I'm that little boy," he said. "Never did I forget my mother's love. But I never before saw the love of God in giving Himself for me. God made you tell that story. My mother did not die in vain. I have asked you to come now and lead me into the shelter of the love of God."

On the cross, my loving Saviour died for His enemies.

The Editor's Notes

(Continued from page 1)

two weeks, Dr. Paul Rood one week, and I will be the preacher through the closing two weeks, May 19-June 2. We expect seating to be provided for about 7,500

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Blessings Through Trouble

(Continued from page 1)

study of the Bible shows that the choicest saints of God were the men who suffered the most. Job, a righteous man, a Godly, prayerful, reverent, humble man, is made an example of suffering. For no sin of his own he lost children, property, friends and health.

Joseph, an innocent lad, was sold into slavery, slandered by Potiphar's wife and languished, forgotten, in prison for years. The purity of his life and his devotion to God shine out with undimmed luster through suffering.

Daniel was seized as a captive of war, grew up in a foreign land, was hated, envied and feared. He was cast into the den of lions. He was accustomed to fasting and tears. Yet not once does the Word of God accuse him of sin.

When you think of Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, imprisoned, beaten, hated and carried captive by his own people, you must

realize that there is a reason for a saint of God to suffer.

Paul is a supreme example of a suffering saint. He was stoned and left for dead. He was hunted like a wild beast; he fought with the lions at Ephesus; was shipwrecked in the sea; was in constant peril at the hand of Jewish mobs. In the final years of his life he is revealed as a prisoner bearing a heavy chain, "a prisoner of Jesus Christ." And as if the outward persecutions were not enough, God allowed to be sent upon him some terrible thorn in the flesh that He would not remove, though Paul besought Him thrice. God answered, "My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness." And Paul then exultantly said, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in

distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Cor. 12:9).

God has some holy reasons why saints ought to suffer. Those that love Him best He draws into the inner holy of holies to suffer. And that ought not to surprise us, for Jesus was above all, "A man of sorrow, and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3). We are told that "It pleased the Lord to bruise him" (Isaiah 53:10). Again we are told about Jesus, "For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings" (Heb. 2:10). If Jesus our Saviour needed to be made perfect, or complete, through suffering, then Christians ought to suffer, ought to be willing to suffer.

Trouble Brings Growth of Character

Trouble often brings people to serious, wholesome thought. Outside of Wichita Falls, Texas, in 1930 I picked up the occupants of a car, wrecked by wild driving. One woman said, "God forgive me. I haven't any sense. I haven't had a serious thought in the last three months!" That night she gave herself to Christ and trusted Him for salvation at midnight. Trouble brings serious thoughts.

Nothing opens the heart in sympathy towards others like trouble. As a five-year-old boy I lost my dear mother. I know that God made me better fit to comfort others by this great sorrow. Again and again by open graves I have told weeping loved ones how I had lost my mother and hoped to see her again. I have learned to weep with those who weep because of my sorrows.

Suffering often makes us grateful for God's mercies. Children who have too many toys do not appreciate them, do not care for them. So, many a man in perfect health, with plenty of money, has no real gratitude to God for His mercies; but if brought to direct poverty, such a man learns to be grateful for the poorest shelter and the most ordinary food. Those who have once known sickness and suffering are more likely to be thankful for good health.

And the Scripture says that tribulation worketh patience. In Romans 5:3 and 4 we are told "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope." A quick tongue and a violent temper are often tamed by the hand of God in sorrow.

It Is Not Always God's Will to Heal the Sick

I know that God answers prayer for the sick. I have seen the sick raised up in answer to prayer, sometimes immediately, sometimes when doctors said there was no hope. I believe that many live who would have died had they not called on God. I do believe, I say, that God answers prayer and God often heals the sick in answer to prayer.

But I thank God that He does not always heal the sick. There are other things better than healing. One of them is the presence and power of God. God did not heal Job until His purpose was accomplished. God did not heal Paul's thorn in the flesh though Paul besought Him often (II Cor. 12:7-10). God did not heal Timothy's weak stomach and often infirmities. He could have done so but evidently chose not to do it. In fact the Scripture plainly says, "It is appointed unto men once to die" (Heb. 9:27). It would not do for a man to live forever in our frailty and sin. It is better that we should suffer some and draw near to God; suffer some and be purged from our sins; suffer some and be like Jesus; and then it is better that we should die and go to be with the Lord if Jesus does not come soon. God is good to heal the sick and He often does. But often the Lord's strength is made perfect in weakness and we can say like Paul, "When I am weak, then am I strong" (II Cor. 12:10).

God Is Particularly Near in Time of Trouble

You who read this have had your troubles. If you have not had them, then you will. Trouble is the lot of mankind. And whatever that trouble may be, whether sickness, poverty, shame, dis-

CONFERENCE ON EVANGELISM, SUNDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, JULY 7-14

The March 8 issue of *The Sword of the Lord* carried an article about the Sword Conference on Evangelism. In the headlines, a mistake was made as to the dates of the conference. As was stated in the body of the article, this second Conference on Evangelism, sponsored by *The Sword of the Lord*, will run from Sunday, July 7, through Sunday, July 14.

appointment or parting, you may be sure that God is nearer in the time of sorrow than ever before. There is something about God that is infinitely tender, and He is always touched by a broken heart. David, overwhelmed with shame after his sin with Bath-sheba, cried out, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." (Psa. 51:17).

It is better to be poor than to be rich, for Jesus said, "Blessed be ye poor" (Luke 6:20). It is just as good to be poor in spirit, for Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3). Read the beatitudes and you will find that they that mourn are blessed; that they that hunger and thirst after righteousness are blessed; that the persecuted are blessed as are those who hunger and those who weep! Don't you see? God is nearer to those in trouble than to those who are not.

God is nearer to the woman who is a widow than to the woman who has a husband. He is nearer to the defenseless orphan child than to the child provided for and protected by a father. For God has said He is "father to the fatherless, and a judge of the widows" (Psa. 68:5). How near God is to all them that be in trouble, them that be weak and helpless and poor and friendless! The Jews were told in the Mosaic Law that the stranger or foreigner must not be oppressed, that if they called at all upon God He would surely avenge them.

I know that our troubles are often brought by our sins. But

(Continued on page 6)

REV. G. P. COMER BECOMES EVANGELIST

Resigns First Methodist Church, Waco, After Ten Years' Ministry, for Full-time Work in the Evangelistic Field

Rev. G. P. Comer has resigned pastorate of the First Methodist Church, Waco, to enter full-time evangelistic work. God has long laid the burden of souls upon his heart and he writes that he can no longer resist the call. *The Sword of the Lord* wishes him success and we pray that many thousands may be saved through his ministry.



Rev. G. P. Comer

Brother Comer is frankly a Methodist, and we suppose his greatest usefulness will be among Armenian groups. How we thank God that He has laid His hand upon a man to help call Methodists back to the Bible and the ways of their fathers, and to call sinners to repentance!

Evangelist Comer believes in

the great fundamentals of the Christian faith, the complete inspiration of the Bible, the deity of Christ, the blood atonement, salvation by grace through faith, the premillennial coming of Christ. Although not a profound preacher, he draws great crowds, he is greatly loved by common people, and people laugh and cry. Some get angry, but thank God, many are saved under his ministry.

Evangelist Comer's Schedule

Evangelist Comer sends his schedule of meetings as follows:

Glasgow, Ky.—Feb. 19-Mar. 3.

Youth for Christ Rallies in Ill.—Mar. 11-Mar. 16.

Dallas, Tex. (Centenary)—Mar. 17-Mar. 31.

Smithville, Tex. — Apr. 7-Apr. 21.

St. Paul Church in Atlanta, Ga. —Apr. 28-May 12.

Cable Tabernacle in Indianapolis, Ind.—May 19-June 2.

Pineville, La. Summer Tent Campaign—June 9-June 23.

Rockwall, Tex. — June 30-July 14.

New Boston, Tex. — July 21-Aug. 4.

Victoria, Tex.—Aug. 11-Aug. 25.

Shawnee, Okla. — Sept. 1-Sept. 15.

West Monroe, La. — Sept. 22-Oct. 6.

Three Rivers, Mich. — Oct. 13-Oct. 27.

Brother Comer writes: "I ask an interest in your prayers as I enter this great field which is white unto harvest."

Evangelist G. P. Comer may be addressed Box 5889, Dallas 2, Texas, his permanent address.

WITH THE EVANGELISTS . . .

(Continued from page 3) tional Church, Peoria, Illinois. God gave us a great victory for which we praise His Name! There were thirty-three who came forward to accept the Lord Jesus as

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6. Religious but Lost.
7. A Good Man Lost and a Bad Man Saved.
8. The Criminal Who Wanted Another Chance.
9. How a Lost Sheep Got Home.
10. "Come Unto Me."
11. Facing the Pierced Jesus.
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13. No Room for Jesus.
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15. "What Must I Do to Be Saved?"
16. Missing God's Last Train for Heaven.

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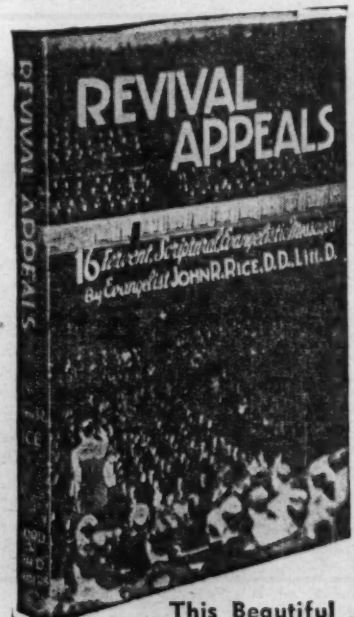
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Blessings Through Trouble

(Continued from page 4)

even then God is near at hand. He was nearer to the prodigal boy in the hogpen than He was to the elder brother safe at home! He was nearer to the publican, a guilty sinner, than He was to the moral pharisee! God was nearer to the dying thief than He was to the scribes and elders.

God is very, very near in time of trouble. That is the reason He commands us, "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" (Psa. 50:15).

When you are in trouble, if you really take your trouble to heart and turn in penitence to God, it is easy to pray. It is easy to have your sins forgiven when you are in trouble. It is easy to feel the Spirit of God when you are in trouble. The next time sorrow or disappointment of any kind comes upon you, then remember that God is near to all that are of a broken heart!

God Always Has a Loving Purpose in Trouble

Maybe you do not understand your trouble, dear friend—God has a loving purpose in it. He wants you to love Him better. He wants you to find His will. He wants to keep you from sin. And if you are not saved, brother, He wants to draw you to Himself. Many a sinner would never listen to the gospel until death came into the home. Many a wild, irresponsible boy would never consider being a Christian until his sins found him out and some Christian spoke to him behind the jail bars about Christ, the Friend of sinners! My dear friend, whatever your trouble, God means it for good!

The other day as I lay sick on my bed, one of my little girls needed a whipping. I was sick, but a whipping means a lot more when it is delivered by Daddy. Father, you can not shirk your duty. It was a sad occasion for all of us. She had been warned and warned again and when she persisted in her wrongdoing she had to be whipped. The Scripture was clear on my duty. "He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Prov. 13:24). Again we are told "The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly" (Prov. 20:30), and "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Prov. 19:18). That is old-fashioned, but it is the Word of God, and well I know I have no hope of success in rearing my family except I do it by God's Word. Sin must be punished. Not in a temper, but sadly and resolutely I did what God commanded. When she brought me my belt and the first painful blows began to fall, my child said, "I'm sorry, Daddy, I'm sorry! I'm sorry!" I stopped for a little and reminded her that she had had much time to be sorry before but she was not sorry until punishment came. Then I talked some more and then whipped some more. She cried and my heart bled. Then she promised to do better and went back to her work.

I lay back on my bed and cried out to God. I well know that it takes far more than a whipping to make good women out of my girls. It takes prayer and the leadership of the Holy Spirit and careful training. We must aim for definite results, results of character and love for right. I prayed that God would give me wisdom about it and that He would not let the stripes and the tears and the pleading and the teaching be in vain!

Then suddenly my heart turned to God for myself. I, too, have cried out to God many a time, "I'm sorry! I'm sorry, Lord! I'm so sorry!" I am always sorry when my sin finds me out, when grief catches up with me. But God knows that many a time I seem careless and indifferent about the things that displease Him until I feel His wrath!

Weeping, I began to pray, "Oh,

God, whatever this sickness is for, do not take it away until You accomplish Your purpose!" I thought, "What a tragedy if these days of pain, fever and sickness, with the work delayed and sorrow to many should go by and yet I not be a better man, not be a better preacher." I know that often I have begged God to heal me immediately when I have been sick, and sometimes He has. I have never been sick very much, nor very long, but now I see the importance of the chastening rod of God.

I remember that Hebrews 12:11 tells us, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceful fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." It is my earnest cry to God that whatever sorrow He brings my way may be used to bring the peaceable fruits of righteousness, because I am exercised thereby.

It is wicked for a Christian to be indifferent or prayerless or impatient about suffering. Rather let us kiss the hand that smites us. Let us cry with Job, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." We can well say about every loss, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Let our hearts be comforted in every trial and trouble. Our loving heavenly Father has a purpose in every sorrow, every sickness, every burden. It is a token of His loving heart. He chasteneth every son that He loves.

What to Do in Trouble

It ought to be clear, then, what one should do in trouble. Certainly we should pray. Certainly we should think on our way. We should open all the closet doors in our heart and ask the Holy Spirit of God to turn His searchlight into every secret nook and corner to find and reveal to us all the things that grieve HIS holy heart.

When trouble comes your way, then the thing to do is humble yourself under the mighty hand of God and let Him lift you up. In Hosea 6:1-2 we have the cry of the remnant of the Jews who have been so far away from God. Here it is:

"Come and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight."

When sickness or loss or heart-break comes to you, my dear reader, I earnestly beg you to return to the Lord. He who has torn will heal. "He hath smitten and he will bind us up." Your prodigal boy, your automobile accident, your unhappy home, your broken health, your break with a dear friend—any of these may be simply the chastening rod of God that warns you of His displeasure. When trouble comes, run to the Lord at once!

Sinner, Trouble Is God's Call to Be Saved

Wicked King Ahab, the idolater who brought such a curse upon Israel, turned to God in penitence when trouble came upon him and God was pleased. I Kings 21:27-29 tells us:

"And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly. And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house."

Wicked King Manasseh of Judah was so wicked and Godless that he was carried away captive

into Assyria. But II Chronicles 33:11-13 tells us of his marvelous repentance in his trouble and the tender answer of God, who brought him back to his kingdom. Here is the story in divine words:

"Wherefore the Lord brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon. And when he was in affliction, he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. And prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord he was God."

In Shamrock, Texas, in 1926 or '27 I was pastor of the First Baptist Church. A man called me on the 'phone and said, "Brother Rice, can you meet us at the cemetery for a funeral at 3:00 o'clock?" I learned that a new-born baby had died. I was glad to go. The little casket was held on the knees of men in overalls carried in a model Ford car. The mother was still in bed. The father, in overalls, stood by the open grave and wept as I preached on the words of David about his little child, "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" (II Samuel 12:23).

When the little mound was covered, when neighbors had placed home-grown roses and honeysuckle over the bare earth and friends had shaken his hand and gone, I put my arm around the father and said, "Are you a Christian?" He answered that he was not. He said, "I can't understand why he died. The doctor said he was perfect but he just did not breathe! I can't understand why!" I told him that perhaps the dear Lord was calling him to be a Christian, that through trouble God longed to draw the father near enough to give him salvation and peace. He answered, "Why, that is just what my wife said this morning!" I suggested that we pray, and we did there beside that little mound. He gave himself to Jesus Christ and found forgiveness and peace and went back home to comfort his wife, the sorrowing mother.

Sinner, what will you do in time of trouble? The best example I know is that of the dying thief. He deserved to die. He knew it and openly confessed it. He could promise nothing. He would not even have a chance to be baptized and could never live a day for the Lord. Yet in his dying hour he cried to the Lord Jesus, "Lord remember me when thou comest into Thy kingdom" (Luke 23:42). And the Lord Jesus, dying Himself, and so near to all the suffering and dying who will have Him near, answered back, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). Sweet words of forgiveness and pardon! Sweet words of hope for the sinning and troubled!

The Saviour said, "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matt. 11:28-29).

If troubles come your way, then, call upon the Lord. Put your trust in Him. Take Him as Saviour today and surrender Him all your life. There are many blessings in trouble! God means it for good. If your heart turns to God in surrender and penitence and trust, then you will find that out of trouble will grow the sweet peace of God that passes understanding, the peace of salvation. Let trouble turn you to God and everlasting joy!

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"WHY TALLEST THOU WITH HER?"

(Continued from page 1)

tated that morning, seeking to answer this question that had never been asked, it seemed that there were so many good answers that came to mind, and I would like to pass some of them on to you.

There were at least three good reasons why the disciples should be amazed to see the Saviour engaged in conversation with this wicked woman, and I want you to keep them in mind so that you will fully understand the disciples in their attitude of amazement, and their unuttered question, "Why talkest thou with her?"

First of all, to them, Jesus was a Rabbi, and according to Jewish Law no Rabbi must ever hold conversation with a woman alone. Jesus was doing this, and so naturally, the disciples were shocked. Another reason why Jesus would not normally be expected to talk to the woman was that Jesus was a Man, and for a man to engage in serious conversation with a strange woman two thousand years ago was just as improper as it would be today. It just was not according to the rules of "Emily Post." A third reason is one that is expressed in the text, when the woman asked: "... How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans" (verse 9).

Jewish people held the Samaritans in contempt and would have nothing to do with them. Many Jews, finding that Samaria was in the way of their journey, would go to a great deal of trouble to take a long circuitous route around Samaria so as to avoid becoming contaminated by any contact with the Samaritans. And yet, in spite of this, here was Jesus, a Jew, talking seriously and lengthily with a Samaritan woman. Is it any wonder that the disciples were amazed, and wondered within their hearts, asking themselves: "Why talkest thou with her?"

There are a number of very good reasons why Jesus cut across the laws of propriety in His day; why He trampled upon the foolish

traditional conventionalities that were blasting human life, and engaged this poor, sinful, wicked woman in earnest, serious, conversation about her soul's welfare. The first one I would like to suggest is:

I. Because She Was a Sinner and He Was the Saviour

In Luke 5:32, we read: "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

In I Timothy 1:15, Paul wrote, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." The Bible says that Jesus had come into the world for the express purpose of saving sinners, and here He was thrown in contact with one of the worst sinners of His time. What was He to do? What could He do, but speak to her? He had come for the very purpose of helping and saving such individuals. The fact of His Saviourhood made it necessary for Him to talk to this poor woman about her soul. He was the Saviour, and could not pass her up, or turn His back upon her simply to comply with the social code of ethics of His time, for she was a sinful woman; she was lost and undone, and bound for eternal destruction, and He had come into the world for the special purpose of saving sinners. If Jesus had refused to talk to this woman for any reason whatever, He would have not been worthy to become the Saviour of mankind.

Nineteen different times we find Jesus dealing with individuals about their sin, and leading them to Himself. In this He sets an example for us today. I am going to say something that may sound very strange to some people, but strange as it may sound, it is wonderfully true. In a very real sense every born-again child of God is held accountable to God for being a saviour of sinners. Every child of God should be a saviour—not a saviour in the sense of one who provides salvation, but rather in the sense of one who brings a salvation that has already been provided to those who are lost and

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in need of saving. Yes, every Christian has been entrusted by God with the responsibility of taking the place of Jesus in being a saviour to poor, lost sinners. Are we meeting our responsibility? Are we worthy of our trust? Jesus could have given many reasons why He should not have spoken to that woman; he was tired, worn and weary from His long journey. He had many other things on His mind. In talking to her He would be subjected to criticism, not only by His enemies, but by His friends, even His closest disciples. But, thank God, such reasons or excuses were not given, because when the Saviour found Himself in the presence of a sinner, there was only one thing that He could possibly do, and that was to talk to that sinner about Himself.

There was another reason why Jesus talked with her, and that was:

II. Because She Did Not Know the Truth and He Did

As the woman approached Jesus sitting there on Jacob's well, He immediately recognized the presence of one who did not know the truth. As we read the account of their conversation, we are informed that she had been deceived and deluded about spiritual things, and was thus utterly ignorant of the truth. Seeing her in this condition, Jesus could not help but take pity upon her and open her eyes so that she could behold the truth and Him Who is the Truth. She was religious, to be sure, perhaps even zealously so, but she was lost. Her ideas and ideals were contrary to the Word, and the plan, and program of God. Her religion was a false religion. Her faith was a dead faith, and because of this she was actually dead in trespasses and sins. But as Jesus proceeded to reveal to her the truth, and to expose the fallacies and fantasies of the false doctrines she had held, He found her surprisingly willing to receive instruction. She was ignorant of the truth, because she had never heard it, but having this opportunity to hear it, she was wise enough to listen carefully and to drink it all in. If this was a good reason for Jesus to talk to the woman of Samaria, surely it is a good reason why we should talk to sinners today. Every time those of us who know the truth are brought into contact with those who do not know the truth, we become morally obligated to present the truth of the gospel as thoroughly and clearly as we can. The Apostle Paul recognized this fact, and spoke of himself as being a "debtor" to those who do not know. Every born-again child of God by virtue of the fact that he knows the truth is indebted to all those with whom he comes in con-

tact who do not know the truth. A very glorious fact is that when we present the truth in all of its wonderful simplicity to those who do not know, many of them will listen carefully and respond gratefully. Up and down the country there are hundreds of thousands of people who have never heard the truth. They are positively ignorant concerning spiritual things, although in many cases they may be very religious. Many have been brought up under false teaching, they have been deceived and deluded by trusted friends who have led them astray, and so in many cases, they have embraced false doctrines and united with false cults. I have dealt with Catholics, Christian Scientists, Russellites, Spiritualists, Jews, Communists, as well as agnostics, infidels, and atheists who have willingly and even eagerly listened to the truth as I presented it and many of them have responded to the truth by accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. I remember a woman twenty-nine years of age, who came to my study one Saturday in Dallas, Texas, to tell me of the great trouble into which she had fallen because of awful sin. I had the privilege of leading her to accept the Lord Jesus as her personal Saviour, and I well remember how she stood before the congregation on the following Wednesday night just before she was to be baptized and said: "You Baptists are too stingy with your religion. If I had only heard about Jesus before this, I would have accepted Him, and I wouldn't have gotten into all of this trouble." Though she was twenty-nine years old, she had never heard the truth, and when it was presented to her for the first time, she very eagerly accepted the Lord.

Let me suggest now that Jesus turned to this woman:

III. Because this Might Be the Only Opportunity She Would Ever Have

There she was—a sinner in the presence of Jesus, the Saviour. Being a sinner, she had all of the qualifications needed for salvation, and Jesus being the Saviour, had all of the qualifications needed for winning her to Himself. Realizing these facts, He put everything else aside, and talked to her about the water of eternal life, for Jesus realized that this might be the only opportunity that she would ever have to hear about this living water. Perhaps, this was the first time in all of her life that she had been brought into contact with anyone who was able to give her the truth. There was no reason to suppose that anyone else would have talked to her, for there were altogether too few who

knew the truth to begin with and then many of those, perhaps even the disciples themselves, were so prejudiced against the Samaritans that they would never think of trying to get this woman to receive the gift of eternal life. If Jesus had not talked to her, it is very likely that she would never again have had an opportunity to talk to one who could show her the way of eternal life, and so Jesus said: "I will not put it off. I will not leave it to someone else. I will talk to her now so that she will have at least this one chance."

I wonder how many Christians are conscious of the fact that day by day they are coming in contact with people who are lost and who may never, never have another opportunity to be thrown in contact with those who know the gospel, and thus, may never have another opportunity to receive salvation and be saved forever from a burning Hell. Every Christian needs to think seriously upon this matter. Day after day as we walk along life's way, at the office; in the factory; in the course of our travels; at school; or while we shop or chat with our neighbors, we are constantly being put in touch with people who do not know God. It may well be that many of these people have never before had an opportunity to really talk with a person who knew God. It may be that they will never have another opportunity again, and so that means we must be careful to take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way. How earnestly we must pray that the Spirit of God will keep us on the alert to such opportunities, and make us ready to speak to those who do not know our blessed Saviour. To my dying day I shall never forget an experience I had while I was pastor in Dallas, Texas. One Wednesday evening I was about to leave home for the prayer meeting, and so I bade farewell to Mrs. Wells, who had to remain at home

with one of the children who was ill, and went to get into my car. As I did so, I looked across the street and there sitting in front of their home were two of our neighbors. I casually waved to them and said, "Hi." Then I got into the car and drove to the prayer service. When the meeting was over, I returned home, and as I got out of the car my youngest daughter came running to me saying: "Daddy, Daddy, something awful has happened across the street. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts were sitting out there when you left. Then Mr. Roberts got up and went into the house. After he had been in there for awhile, he cried out loud, and then Mrs. Roberts ran inside. When she got into the living room, she screamed. Then the neighbors began to run into her home. After a little while the doctor came. I walked over there and peeked in and I saw Mr. Roberts lying on the living room floor. He must be very sick."

I thought that I should go over and speak to them and was about to do so when the ambulance drove up in front of their door. Some men climbed out and took a stretcher into the house. I felt then that perhaps I would only be in the way and so thought that I would be able to call at the hospital since they were taking him away, when suddenly, I saw the stretcher being brought out of the door and I realized that I would never have the opportunity of speaking to Mr. Roberts again because the sheet was pulled over his head and I knew that he had gone on into eternity. I shall never forget how I felt, because I realized that although I had lived there for some two years, I had never spoken to my neighbor across the street about his soul. I discovered later that he had been a Catholic and that he had never trusted Christ as his personal Saviour. Yes, I was busy. I was the pastor of a church, president of a Bible Institute, busy in Bible

conference work and other things, and had very little time at home with my family, but I know if I had thought more carefully and had been more considerate, I would have been able to talk to him about his soul. Now he has gone. Perhaps he never had another opportunity to hear about Christ, and since I did not talk to him—even though I lived just across the street and although I knew the gospel that would save his soul, he went out into eternity, perhaps never really having had an opportunity to trust Christ as his personal Saviour. Oh, may God help us Christians to be more concerned about those around about us and to realize the fact that thousands upon thousands of people are passing our way who may never, never have another opportunity to trust Christ or to even hear the gospel if we do not speak and tell them what we know. From the depths of my heart I pray that God will cause those who read these words to buy up every opportunity, to talk to those with whom they come in contact about the saving, and the keeping, and the satisfying power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is yet another reason why Jesus talked to that sinful woman, and that was:

IV. Because of His Love and Compassion for Sinners

When the disciples came back, they spoke to the Saviour, saying, "Master, eat."

"But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of" (John 4:31, 32). He said: "There is something more important to

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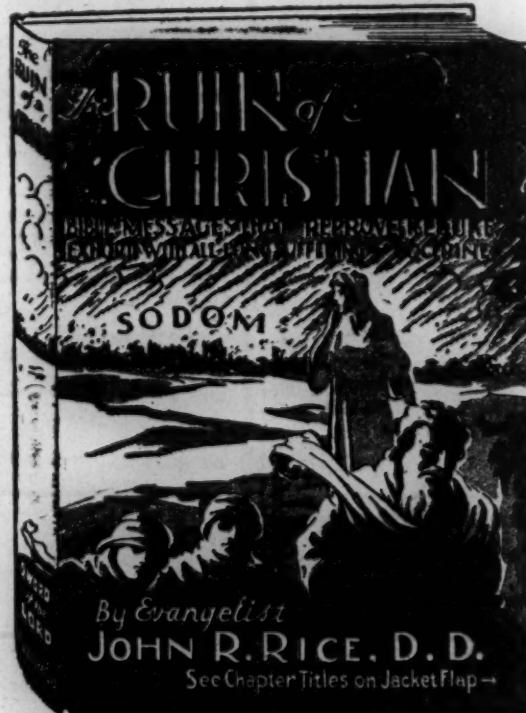
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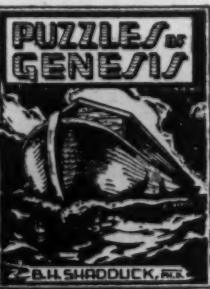
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Me than eating; something that satisfies Me more than anything else in this world, . . . and He was referring to the privilege of personally dealing with this poor, lost sinner about her need for salvation. When Jesus had an opportunity to talk to a soul, nothing else mattered. Everything else was insignificant and unimportant.

Then with burdened heart He turned to His disciples and said: "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35).

In effect Jesus said, "You disciples are concerned about a future harvest to be sure; you are interested in a harvest that is many months away, and in the meantime, you are occupied with other things. But oh, I say unto you that the harvest is not four months away. Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest. The time for harvesting is not four months hence, but it is now! And it is more important to harvest those fields that are all ready than it is to do anything else in the world." Over and over, again and again in the Bible we are told of the love of God and the love of Christ for sinners. Jesus sees that poor, sinful woman in her wretched condition, knowing that unless He told her of God's plan of salvation, unless He warned her of her sin and pointed her to Himself, she might be lost for time and eternity. He just could not help but talk to her. Nothing else mattered at that moment but to tell one poor woman of God's provision for eternal life. When Jesus sees a poor, lost sinner, His heart goes out to that sinner with an overwhelming compassion, a consuming desire to help that sinner turn from his wicked ways, and live by the grace of God. If my who are sinners saved by the grace of God, have even a little of the love of the Lord Jesus Christ; if we are like Him at all, we will want to go to others and tell them about His matchless saving grace and power. We will want to offer our bodies as living sacrifices in order that we may have the privilege of telling poor, lost people that a Saviour is waiting to save them from sin. Many people are hungry-hearted, and are longing to have someone tell them about Jesus and His power to save.

When I held a meeting in Wichita, Kansas, sometime ago, one of the pastors knocked on the door of my hotel room late one evening after I had retired, and said that he had something to tell me that would interest me greatly. Then he said: "We have a little sixteen-year-old Syrian girl in our church. She doesn't know very much about the things of the Lord. She hasn't been saved very long. She had an interesting experience

this afternoon. As she was walking along one of the main streets in the City, she was singing out loud, so that others around her could hear, the beautiful chorus:

"To be like Jesus,
To be like Jesus,
All I ask to be like Him,
All through life's journey
From earth to glory;
All I ask to be like Him."

"As she finished singing it, a well-dressed, cultured woman touched her on the shoulder, and asked: 'What's that you're singing, honey? It sounds so very sweet. Would you mind singing it again?'"

"And so the little Syrian girl sang once again the words of the chorus, and as she did so, the tears began to fall down the cheeks of this cultured woman, and then she said: 'To be like Jesus—that's what I want. I want that more than anything else in the world. Can you tell me how I can be like Jesus?'"

"The little girl thought for a moment, and then said: 'Well, yes,' and although she didn't know very much, she could tell the woman about some of the verses she had learned in Sunday School—'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' (John 3:16).

'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.' (Acts 16:31).

'He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.'

"Upon hearing these verses, the woman said: 'Oh, I know, all I have to do is believe.' The little girl said, 'Yes, that's the way I came to Jesus.'

"Then the woman asked: 'Is there anything to hinder me from settling it now?'"

"To which the little girl replied: 'Not at all,' and so, the two of them got down on their knees together right on that main street, and the woman passed from death unto life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."

Oh, friends, there are many hungry hearts—people who are longing to be told about Jesus. They are dissatisfied with themselves, and in many cases, with the false religions they have been following. They are longing for something that will surely satisfy—something that will meet the real longings of their souls. If we will be faithful in talking to them, and in taking advantage of the opportunities that are afforded us so many, many times every day of our life, hundreds of these people may be brought to Jesus

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whom to know; a right is life eternal.

If we have some of the love and compassion for sinners that so characterized our Saviour's ministry, we will not fail these people

in their great need. We will firmly resolve that, come what may, we will put this business of winning the lost in first place in our lives. We will determine that eating and drinking, sleeping and

playing, and even working will all become secondary to the business of supreme importance—that of talking to others about our blessed Saviour. May God help us to do it!

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Nationally known evangelist, editor and author

During 24 years of pastoral, evangelistic and editorial work, Dr. Rice has been confronted with troubled folk of both sexes and all ages, in private conversation, in letters by the score, and in forums, with questions on courtship and petting, problems of child discipline, family altar, birth control and other marriage problems. Finding almost no material written on such subjects from a Christian and Biblical viewpoint, Dr. Rice was greatly burdened to write a handbook on the home, to answer these questions and others. After much prayer and years of preparation, he presents his latest book, "THE HOME: Courtship, Marriage, and Children."

Young people, engaged couples, young married people and older well established families may profit by the instruction of these chapters. Pastors and Christian workers will find it indispensable in counselling questioning youth. The book, given as a wedding gift, will put many marriages on a firmer Christian basis.

This is a Christian guide showing the basis of a happy marriage and home. In the most delicate chapters of the book, there is nothing questionable, nothing unchaste or unchristian. Devoted and widely known pastors and other Christians, after careful examination, all insisted that these chapters be included, since nowhere else could Christian people find in print reverent Bible teaching on the sacred duties and privileges of marriage and the home. Destined to change lives, to lead many to Christ, to cause thousands of people to start the family altar. READ OVER THE TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR DETAILS OF MATERIAL COVERED.

DR. H. A. IRONSIDE says: "In this volume Dr. Rice speaks as a pastoral counsellor on questions that many ministers studiously avoid. He is both scriptural and practical. A careful consideration of many of its chapters, coupled with a sincere desire to practice the truth therein set forth, might save many a family from shipwreck. While Dr. Rice is always frank and straightforward, he is not rude or vulgar. No one will find his or her sensibilities offended by what is here set forth plainly on subjects which are often considered taboo among modest people."

REV. J. C. MACAULAY, Pastor Wheaton Bible Church, Wheaton, Illinois, says: ". . . The author rebukes sin fearlessly and even scathingly and applies Biblical principles as he understands them without hesitation and right to the hilt. This is both startling and refreshing in a day largely given to half-way measures and softening of issues. At the same time there are chapters so tender that one can scarcely read them without a lump in the throat and tears in the eyes . . .

"The best commentary on the author's thesis is his own home. This reviewer would suggest that the author is very modest in his references to his family. A man whose six daughters are such happy, true Christians has a right to a hearing on the questions discussed in his volume."

This book contains 381 pages, 22 long chapters. It is bound in bright red cloth, jacketed in green and black. Striking is an insert of four pages in the front of the book containing a marriage license, a family record, and a Madonna-like picture of Mrs. Rice and Baby Joy taken on their sixteenth wedding anniversary.

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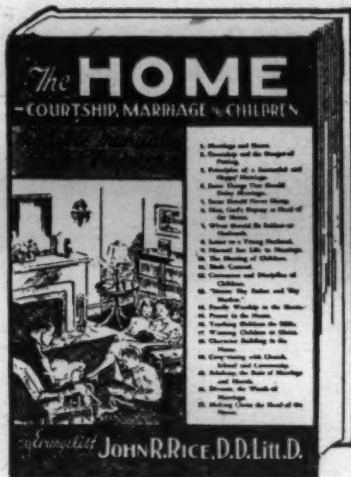
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